

# Accomplishments

## Benefits of Successful Consolidation

- Consolidation of fractionated ownership interests in the name of the Tribe/Band for the benefit of all tribal members
- Increased opportunities for land use and business
- Create more opportunities for land exchanges and/or partitionment with remaining owners
- Prevents the loss of land and ownership from trust status
- Long-term saving to the government are realized through reduced administrative costs

Nationally, by the end of Fiscal Year 2009, the ILCP purchased 415,690 interests equivalent to 626,381.23 acres that have been returned to tribal ownership. The ILCP has demonstrated that:

1. Majority ownership can be transferred to tribes
2. The number of fractionated ownership interests can be reduced
3. The administrative burden to the Government can be reduced

## Overall Accomplishments for ILCP

As of September 30, 2009:

- 416,622 interests acquired (equivalent to 628,180.24 acres). 351,716 of these interests or about 84% of these interests are 2% or less of the whole land tract including:
- 75,621 *Youpee* Interests
- 90,006 mineral interests
- “Potentially” closed 5,424 IIM accounts; OST has closed 2,328 IIM accounts;
- Acquired all known interests from 7,653 individuals. Without ILCP or other consolidation efforts, approximately 826,524<sup>1</sup> new fractionated interests would have been created;
- The government may have avoided future probate costs of over \$57.4 million based on purchases from these land owners;
- Achieved 100% tribal ownership on 447 tracts and five reservations have majority ownership in the majority of all allotted tracts on these reservations;
- Achieved competent leasing on 1,291 tracts. Competent leasing status means that the number of individual owners of an allotted tract has been reduced to 10 or less;
- Obligated 97% of all funding received in FY 2004-2009;
- ILCP staff has contributed to the reduction of the number of Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) through internal research by over 1,500. This resulted in increased acquisitions and elimination of IIM accounts.

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<sup>1</sup> 7653 individuals times 6 heirs times 18 interests equals 826,524 new interests created through future probate.

## Human Interest Stories

Examples of statements and actual comments received from land owners who have sold their land interests to ILCP:

- Statement from landowner when he and his wife came into the office one day to sign deeds: "I have been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and it is too late to go through chemo. I'm not afraid of dying, but I'm afraid of not being able to get my financial affairs in order for the benefit of my family before I go. These land sales are my only chance of accomplishing that."
- A landowner, who had previous sales with this program, came back in to see if there were other tracts in which she could sell interests. She has a grandchild in the critical care unit with respiratory illness and needed funds to stay in the city close to the hospital and provide for her family until the grandchild gets better and can be released.
- One land owner has tried repeatedly for years to get the land sold to the Tribe through the local agency with no success. He will definitely apply to sell more through this program.
- Purchased new gate and gate panels, fence posts and materials to improve family-operated ranch business
- Commented that this is a much needed and long-overdue program for this region in its efforts to assist landowners in their consolidation efforts so they can realize some monetary benefits from the sale of their interests in highly fractionated tracts of land. He is starting up a river tour business.
- Two landowners are expecting a baby and the ILCP sale proceeds will be helpful in their personal situations.
- One land owner was going to use their ILCP land sale proceeds to save their home from foreclosure.
- Landowner is a kidney dialysis patient and she is going to purchase a van so that she can be transported more easily in her wheelchair
- "I have cataracts in both eyes and need surgery. Medicaid won't pay for it, so I'm glad I got the money so I can have the surgery."
- Thanks for helping to pay his rodeo circuit. "Thanks for treating me so good."
- Medical circumstances – eye surgery, purchased dentures
- Landowner purchased a headstone for the family plot.
- "My wife has stuck with me through hard times; so we're going to use the money to have a good time together. I'm blind."
- Wanted to sell his land interests to pay for his funeral. He is disabled and had money to prepay his funeral but somehow lost the investment. He wants to use this money to make his arrangements
- She said that ILCP is the only office that ever showed any interest in her request to sell land. Even though we are unable to buy her land at this time because we are out of funding. She was happy with our service and she will call us in the next fiscal year
- He is pleased that ILCP is able to purchase these small fractions of land. Also, pleased these will go back to the tribe. He lives in Kentucky and said he will never live on the land and probably never live in SD. He hopes that the tribe will be able to develop this land and use it for good things
- He plans to use the money from this sale to build a website to promote himself as a traditional Lakota musician. He lives in Denver, CO.
- Our office expedited her land sale, worked with our LTRO and turned her sale around quickly. She was very happy when I called her and told her the check was in the mail. She broke down crying on the phone, overcome with happiness that we were able to help
- Thanked me so much for our program. She said the money she got went to really good use. She bought a dishwasher, washer/dryer, used it for repair work on her car, bought her son a van, gave her son some money and paid some bills.
- Landowner really appreciated the way he was treated by ILCP. He's using the money to go back to school.